

INLAND CELLULAR TELEPHONE COMPANY  
Corporate Offices

103 S. 2nd St.  
P.O. Box 688  
Roslyn WA 98941  
Telephone (509) 649-2500  
Fax (509) 649-3300

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

By Electronic Submission

John Muleta, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

David Solomon, Chief, Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: E911 Interim Report for Tier III Carriers  
CC Docket No. 94-102  
Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Pursuant to the Commission's *Order to Stay*, in the above referenced docket,<sup>1</sup> Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership ("WA8LP") hereby submits its E911 Interim Report for Tier III carriers. This Report provides the Commission with the current status of WA8LP's E911 efforts and its progress towards compliance with the Commission's E911 Phase II benchmarks.

Please contact the undersigned if you should have any questions regarding this Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Maras".

Greg Maras  
Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership  
(509) 649-2211

<sup>1</sup> Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Phase II Compliance Deadlines for Non-Nationwide CMRS Carriers, CC Docket No. 94-102, *Order to Stay*, FCC 02-210, 17 FCC Rcd 14,841 (2002)

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## **INTERIM REPORT FOR TIER III CARRIERS**

### **WASHINGTON RSA NO. 8 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**

Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership ("WA8LP") hereby provides the Commission with its E911 Interim Report ("Report") for Tier III carriers. As a Tier III carrier, WA8LP is submitting this one-time Report in order to provide the Commission with the current status of its E911 efforts and its progress towards compliance with the Commission's Phase II benchmarks. WA8LP is the Block B cellular licensee in the Washington 8 – Whitman RSA (call sign KNKN489), as well as a Block B licensee in the Idaho 1 – Boundary RSA (call sign KNKQ400), and the Idaho 2 – Idaho RSA (call sign KNKR305).

WA8LP takes its E911 responsibilities seriously and to assist in ensuring that E911 connectivity for Phase I and Phase II service is properly implemented, WA8LP is using the services of Telecommunications Service Incorporated ("TSI"). TSI is a third party vendor with years of experience in assisting wireless carriers, such as WA8LP, in their E911 implementation efforts by providing both project management and implementation services. TSI has played a key role in WA8LP's E911 implementation process, coordinating the implementation process and assisting WA8LP with the technical problems as they arose. TSI, with the participation of the relevant Public Switched Safety Points ("PSAPs") and Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs"), developed an implementation process by which each party was assigned implementation tasks with mutually agreed upon deadlines. To assure that the parties were all involved and kept current, TSI hosts bi-weekly conference calls with all the parties to discuss developments and gauge progress.

In preparing the instant Report, WA8LP has followed the guidelines provided by the Commission in its June 30, 2003 Public Notice.<sup>1</sup> As WA8LP's cellular operations span two states, Washington and Idaho, the answers provided herein are meant to include its operations in both states. Where answers vary by state, the questions address each state separately.

#### **The number of Phase I and Phase II requests from PSAPs (including those the carrier may consider invalid):**

WA8LP has received five (5) requests for E911 Phase I from PSAPs throughout the WA-8 RSA. WA8LP has not received any Phase I requests from any PSAPs in the state of Idaho. Additionally, WA8LP has not received any Phase II requests from any PSAPs in either the state of Washington or Idaho.

Prior to the implementation process, WA8LP began drafting a Phase I Interconnection Agreement Template in June 2000, which was to be used by each of the

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<sup>1</sup> See Public Notice, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Provides Further Guidance on Interim Report Filings by Small Sized Carriers, DA 03-2113, rel. June 30, 2003.

PSAPs. Through the hard work of both Maryls Davis, E-911 Program Manager in the King County E-911 Program Office, and WA8LP an agreement in principle was hammered out

The five E911 Phase I service requests were dated as follows: Asotin County PSAP – December 4, 2002, Columbia County PSAP – November 4, 2002, Garfield County PSAP – October 28, 2002; Walla Walla County PSAP, December 26, 2002, and, Whitman County PSAP – December 30, 2002.<sup>2</sup> Prior to these requests being sent, however, TSI and WA8LP were already working with all the counties in WA8LP's service area to ensure timely and reliable E911 Phase I service. TSI and the PSAPs conducted regularly scheduled meetings to discuss implementation milestones and the work that needed to be done to achieve these milestones. Specifically, TSI sent out surveys and information requests to the PSAPs and the LEC in order to ascertain the various elements and components of E911 Phase I that WA8LP would need to implement. It was made clear that this information was deemed essential for WA8LP to begin implementation efforts and to establish the requisite implementation schedule.

Originally, TSI had requested that the PSAPs return their surveys to TSI by July 2002. Of the five PSAPs, only Columbia and Garfield counties returned their surveys to TSI on a timely basis. TSI established a new target date of February 2003 for the PSAPs to return the surveys. Walla Walla County was the only PSAP of the remaining three to meet this deadline. Asotin County did not return their survey until March 10, 2003 and Whitman County did not return its survey until March 26, 2003. Moreover, TSI requested that the PSAPs return their updated Master Street Address Guides ("MSAG") by February 2003. The MSAG is a critical document as it provides information regarding where emergency rescue efforts should be sent. The only PSAPs to meet this deadline for providing updated MSAGs were Columbia and Garfield county. The remaining three PSAPs untimely returned their updated MSAGs in March and April of 2003. Delays by the PSAPs in returning the requested information have significantly contributed to the delays associated with WA8LP's ability to provide Phase I E911 service because without this most basic information, such as the number of trunks from the selective router to the PSAP or the location of the ALI database, WA8LP was unable to proceed with implementation.

The history of E911 efforts in Washington State is replete with unexpected delays and uncertainties which WA8LP and the PSAPs have worked in good faith to overcome. In the summer of 2002 throughout the winter of 2002 there was widespread concern that the PSAPs would not receive sufficient monies from the state to permit the PSAPs to build or staff E911 facilities.

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<sup>2</sup> WA8LP notes that this is the second round of E911 Phase I requests issued by these PSAPs. The initial requests were dated as follows: Columbia County PSAP – February 23, 2000, Garfield County PSAP – December 5, 2000, Walla Walla County PSAP – April 24, 2002. The PSAPs, however, were not ready to receive E911 Phase I information. Accordingly, the second round of requests were sent once the PSAPs were prepared to receive this information. The Asotin County PSAP has only issued one request.

Due in part to this uncertainty and due to the delays WA8LP was experiencing in obtaining responses from the PSAPs, in February 2003, WA8LP entered into Letter Agreements with each of the PSAPs. These Letter Agreements acknowledged the delays and set June 2003 as the target date by which E911 Phase I service would be provided<sup>3</sup>. The Letter Agreements provided that WA8LP would continue to work diligently toward implementation of Phase I and WA8LP has worked with TSI and the PSAPs toward an implementation of E911 Phase I service by June 2003. The Letter Agreement served as a mutual recognition between WA8LP and the PSAP that E911 Phase I service would be initiated by June 2003 unless WA8LP is prevented, despite using reasonable efforts, from implementing E911 Phase I service due to the following: a) either the PSAP's or the LEC's inability to provide the requested information in a timely manner; b) any third party, such as the LEC or a Vendor of an ALI/DMS system provider, failing to complete its respective task or provide capabilities as requested; or c) an Act of God. The Letter Agreement was sent to each PSAP and was mentioned in TSI's bi-weekly calls as well as noted in the meeting minutes which are sent to each PSAP. All the PSAP's assented to the Letter Agreement.

Although TSI did not receive the last PSAP survey until March 26, 2003, eight months after it was requested, by May 2003 WA8LP was able to make up for the lost time and was in position to implement by June 30<sup>th</sup>. However, as the June 2003 deadline was approaching WA8LP encountered a problem with QWEST, the LEC that serves the area covered by WA8LP in the State of Washington. Specifically, QWEST is using Intrado as its ALI-Database. However, when TSI attempted to 'communicate' with Intrado's system, access to it was repeatedly blocked. Fortunately, TSI and Intrado have vigorously worked on fixing the connection problem and anticipate connectivity by August 1, 2003. Assuming the proposed connectivity method works, WA8LP will begin pre-testing and testing by August 4, 2003. In anticipation that all continues to go well, WA8LP believes that it will be ready to go to live users by mid-to-late August. The PSAPs have continually been updated on the status of WA8LP's connectivity issues with Intrado and have understood both the problems encountered and WA8LP's diligent efforts to rectify the unexpected delays.

**The carrier's specific technology choice (i.e., network-based or handset-based solutions, as well as the type of technology used):**

As previously reported to the Commission, WA8LP still intends on utilizing a handset-based location technology solution for Phase II E911. WA8LP has begun implementing this choice by ordering the requisite ALI-capable handsets and selling these handsets in its service area. Thus, WA8LP has already met the September 1, 2003 benchmark to commence selling ALI-capable handsets. The problems experienced by

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<sup>3</sup> The Letter Agreements utilized the flexibility afforded to the PSAPs and wireless carriers by the FCC. Although the Commission's rules require wireless carriers to provide Phase I E911 service within six months from the date of a valid request for such service, the Commission has also given counties and wireless carriers the flexibility to mutually agree to different timeframes in order to respond to real-world needs. 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(j)(5). See also, *Revision of Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems*, Petition of City of Richardson, Texas, CC Docket No. 94-102, Order on Reconsideration, 17 FCC Rcd 24282, 24282 (2002).

WA8LP in ordering and obtaining these phones are two-fold. First is the supply-demand problem – there is too much demand for the ALI-capable handsets but still not enough supply to meet this demand. Particularly, as a Tier III carrier, there is even a more limited supply of ALI-capable handsets available for WA8LP to order. Manufacturers fill the orders of the larger carriers before turning to the mid-sized and smaller carriers. In some instances, these larger carriers can account for the majority of the handset supply available from a particular manufacturer. Thus, Tier III carriers can be left to scrounge for the ALI-capable cellular handsets they need. Complicating matters is the fact that given WA8LP's relative size and the limited amount of handsets it requires, WA8LP cannot even work directly with the manufacturers to order the handsets and must go through third party vendors.

The second problem is the current cost of ALI-capable handsets. At present, ALI-capable handsets will cost WA8LP \$100 more per phone than similarly configured non-ALI handsets currently offered by WA8LP to its customers. Currently, WA8LP has not perceived demand by its customers for such an equipped phone, as Phase II service is not being provided in WA8LP's service area. Thus, in order to entice its customers to purchase the phone Inland will need to subsidize the costs of the phones, an expense that, in addition to the other E911 related costs, will disproportionately impact a small carrier such as WA8LP.

**Status on ordering and/or installing necessary network equipment:**

As WA8LP has not received any requests for Phase II E911 service, it has not begun to order the software upgrades that will be needed to implement Phase II E911 service. As outlined above, WA8LP and TSI are very close to successfully implementing Phase I E911 service throughout WA8LP's service area and anticipate completing this implementation by the end of August 2003. TSI has already begun preparations for moving on to implementation of Phase II service and will turn to implementation of such service upon completion of Phase I service. WA8LP will begin working on its E911 Phase II implementation in tandem with TSI despite the absence of any E911 Phase II service request from any of the PSAPs.

The immediate problem WA8LP currently anticipates in ordering and installing the necessary software upgrades is the ability of small carriers to be expeditiously scheduled by the vendor for installation. Because there is such a large demand for the necessary software to become Phase II compliant, small Tier III carriers such as WA8LP will be scheduled after the Tier I and Tier II carriers' needs are met. WA8LP is concerned that it will be forced to wait until there is enough supply for it to receive the needed software upgrades.

**If the carrier is pursuing a handset-based solution, the Report must also include information on whether ALI-capable handsets are now available, and whether the carrier has obtained ALI-capable handsets or has agreements in place to obtain these handsets:**

As noted above, WA8LP is pursuing a handset-based solution. While such handsets are available to large carriers, they are only available on a limited basis to Tier III carriers such as WA8LP. Given the fast-approaching September 1, 2003 deadline for selling ALI-capable handsets, many carriers have similarly requested a supply of ALI-capable handsets. From WA8LP's discussions with its third party vendors, supply is straining to meet the demand. Thus, by the time the orders of the smaller carriers are ready to be filled, there may not be sufficient ALI-capable phones to completely meet the needs of the Tier III carriers.

WA8LP does perceive a problem in marketing ALI-capable handsets to its customers because there is currently no perceived benefit to the subscriber to purchase a phone with capabilities it cannot currently utilize. E911 Phase II service has not been requested by the PSAPs in WA8LP's service area and as such the ALI-capable phones will not be capable of being used to their full potential. WA8LP believes it will be hard to market the benefits of an ALI-capable phone if those benefits cannot currently be utilized by customers. If the prices of ALI capable handsets do not fall quickly, WA8LP will be in the untenable position of either having to request further extensions of the benchmarks or diverting capital earmarked for new cells and maintenance to underwrite the purchase of Phase II capable handsets which will not, for the foreseeable future, have their Phase II E911 capabilities used.

**The estimated date on which Phase II service will first be available in the carrier's network:**

Without a valid PSAP request for E911 Phase II service, it is difficult for WA8LP to estimate when such service will be available. Should a PSAP request such service in the near future, however, WA8LP believes that after the purchase of the necessary software upgrades, its current infrastructure is capable of handling such calls, assuming the appropriate handsets are available and being used. If any additional changes to WA8LP's system may be necessary in the future to accommodate Phase II implementation, WA8LP stands ready to meet any such current PSAP request.

**Information on whether the carrier is on schedule to meet the ultimate implementation date of December 31, 2005.**

WA8LP believes that the 95% penetration rate for ALI-capable phones by the December 31, 2005 deadline is achievable if adequate handsets can be obtained and economic issues can be overcome. However, a shortfall of ALI-capable handsets or the possible economic impact of the costs associated with obtaining the number of phones needed to meet the December 31, 2005 benchmark could stymie WA8LP's best efforts to meet the benchmark dates. WA8LP will provide the Commission with additional updates if any hurdles appear which could endanger its ability to meet the benchmark deadlines.

## DECLARATION OF GREGORY MARAS

I, Gregory Maras, am an officer of Inland Cellular Telephone Company, the general partner of Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership, and I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained on this form and the attached document is complete and accurate.

Signed. Gregory Maras

Date. 11/1/88